

First Mondays

Monthly Notes for Virginia's Adult Education Providers

October 5, 2015

Calendar

**CCRS Teacher
Leadership Institute**
November 5-6
Richmond

**Adult Student
Registration Form
Feedback Webinars**
October 15, 10-11 a.m.
October 16, 1-2 p.m.

GED® Stats

2015

GED accounts – 14,810

Test takers – 4,831

Completers – 2,351

Passers – 1,724

State pass rate - 73%

National pass rate - 66%

Harnessing Technology to Serve Adult Literacy

By Dr. David J. Rosen, president, Newsome Associates

Below is an excerpt from an article that appeared in the Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS) Discussion Forum on September 24, 2015.

With the proliferation of online instructional tools and content, many educators are overwhelmed and sometimes feel frustrated that they will never catch up. We need ways to organize and access these tools and free or Open Education Resource (OER) content so that they are easy to find and so that teachers can easily sort the wheat from the chaff.

One way to organize content and tools is by subject or topic (English language learning, numeracy/mathematics, reading, writing, digital literacy skills, etc.) There are many examples of searchable databases of content suitable for adult basic education, for example:

The Literacy List - A nearly two-decades, regularly updated list of adult basic education [resources], including basic literacy, numeracy/math, ESL/ESOL, ASE, and transition websites. Websites are suggested by adult basic education practitioners and reviewed by me.

OER Commons - A large database of K-12 and adult learner lesson plans and resources that indicates that the lessons can be shared for free and in some cases, revised or re-purposed. Each lesson has a creative commons license. Search for lesson plans by Subject, Grade Level (there is a category called Adult Education) or Standard (Next Generation Science, and Common Core State Standards for Reading or Math). All the resources are reviewed using standard rubrics.

The new LINCS **Learner Center**, and

MERLOT, Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching. This is a free resource designed primarily for post-secondary education faculty and students. It includes links to online learning materials, some of which may be useful for adult basic and secondary education teachers.

WIOA

**Resources for WIOA
Information**

[OCTAE](#)

[Department of Labor](#)

[National Skills Coalition](#)

[Federal Register Web site](#)

Money Matters

First quarter
reimbursement,
program income,
match, and SLCA
expenditure reports are
due October 16, 2015.

First Mondays cont.

October 2015

However, another way to organize online tools and content resources for adult basic skills education is by teaching/learning problem: typical problems that adult basic skills (including ESOL/ESL, numeracy/mathematics, adult basic and secondary, and transition to higher education) teachers regularly face. First, the problems are articulated, and then, good technology solutions are suggested to solve the problem. A technology solution might be: computer software; apps for portable digital devices; online instructional videos; online formative assessments; assistive technology or technology that enables Universal Design for Learning; classroom management technology; or hardware, such as digital cameras, multimedia projectors, electronic white boards; photocopy machines, mp3 players, CD-ROM players, tablets, phablets (a tablet with a phone); smartphones and more. Look over the standards (both math and ELA) that apply to the level(s) of the students you're teaching. If you notice standards that you don't normally teach, think about ways to incorporate them into your instruction during this academic year. Consider regularly including CCRS target standards in your lesson objectives.

The free [Harnessing Technology to Serve Adult Literacy](#) Web pages are now updated and available.



First Mondays is published by the Virginia Department of Education, Office of Adult Education and Literacy.